



Wisconsin Conservation Congress
 Mississippi River Advisory Committee
 Meeting Minutes

WCC Meeting Minutes

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ORDER OF BUSINESS	08/25/2018	9:30 am	Genoa National Fish Hatchery
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I. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by	Chairman M. Britton at 9:30 am
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B. ROLL CALL

ATTENDEES	Michael Britton, Marc Shultz, Wes Domine, Rick Wayne, Daniel Heidel, William Greendeer, Dwight Ruff, Ted Engelein, Hugh Hatch, Maurice Amundson, Reed Kabelowsky, William Howe, Wayne Stietz, Barbara Dahlgren/ aka Maniotis
EXCUSED	Daniel Hayden, Greg Koelker, William Kehoe, Kyle Walker
UNEXCUSED	
GUESTS	WI DNR - Dave Heath

C. AGENDA APPROVAL/REPAIR

DISCUSSION	The proposed agenda was accepted unanimously.
ACTION	

D. REVIEW COMMITTEE MISSION STATEMENT

DISCUSSION	Addition of "Fish and" to the mission statement of influencing the NRB on issues concerning the long-term benefit of wildlife resources.
ACTION	The proposed addition to the mission statement was accepted unanimously. The mission statement shall now read in part "Influence stemming from the MRC shall be generated with greatest intentions toward long term benefits to all "fish and" wildlife resources;

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

DISCUSSION	no public comments were given to the chairman prior or at the meeting.
ACTION	

II. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEMS

A. Citizen Resolutions

[PRESENTER]

DISCUSSION	Citizen resolutions assigned to committee – none. Two resolutions were mentioned as they were recommended to other committees. Resolution 120118, was discussed at the warm water committee meeting, and the outcome was reportedly not in favor of bow hunting and to protect the flathead catfish. Resolution- 410618, a commercial fishing resolution was sent to the legislative committee. No update available on this resolution.	
ACTION	None	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE

B. Department information items & updates

David Heath

DISCUSSION	David Heath, a fisheries biologist for the DNR gave several updates in regards to the DNR and USFWS. During these updates, the membership expressed interest in following up with what it can do specifically in regards to invasive plants such as purple loosestrife and Japanese Hops. The committee is concerned specifically with their role in erosion. Reed Kabelowsky volunteered to draft a letter of member concerns and support of the USFWS on this issue. Updates: The DNR has found success in getting more oxygen into Long Lake, but they are still concerned about the Duckweed, farm runoff and other pollution issues in other areas. There are no new listings for "impaired waters," so there are no other high priority cleanup projects to report. Due to the Goose Island road widening project, the DOT is helping fund the replacement of culverts with control structures for better control of oxygen and water flow. They will also fund a small dredging project as well.
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	<p>In the Upper Mississippi River Restoration Project, 30 Million a year is spent to monitor fish, vegetation and water quality and promote habitat projects noted in article B1. This year, 45 sites had their plant monitoring projects completed.</p> <p>Due to the Water Resources Development Act, a bunch of new restoration projects are in their infancy. Depending on their habitat needs assessments, pools 9 and 10 may be the next focus. The McGregor Lake forestry project is a bit farther along with a public meeting expected later this year. Conway Lake is the current focus. These projects are funded through the Army Corps of Engineers, and more information can be found at http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Home/Projects/Article/1148884/upper-mississippi-river-restoration-program-conway-lake/</p> <p>-Members of the MRC caution that the public should be kept involved in these projects especially through public input sessions.</p> <p>Brenda Kelly, a wildlife biologist working on fact sheets for upcoming projects and monitoring water levels from past projects. Due to high water levels this year, she met 60% of geese banding projects.</p> <p>Generally in regards to such water development projects, Minnesota particularly is working on a systematic approach to monitoring rather than randomly doing so on a grant basis, and Wisconsin is working on this as well.</p> <p>The Navigation and Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP) is gaining new traction in its mission to revamp the lock and dam system so long as the funding is present in order to support the environmental conservation side.</p> <p>The Pierce County Islands and Lake Pepin Legacy Projects are underway. These are partially funded by the localities, donations, and the MN Audubon Society, but the majority is coming from the ACOE under Section 204 of the Waer Development Act. Their goals are to add islands to block the wind and therefore increase the floodland forest habitat.</p> <p>Hurricane Island, Pool 2 is a new temporary disposal site for dredge material from the flood plain.</p> <p>Lake Sturgeon may soon be classified as endangered, however Wisconsin has a lot of “viable sturgeon fisheries.”</p> <p>Finally, three handouts from the meeting show public opinion on fishing rules, LTRM data trends on the fish and plant life of pool 8 (more information can be found on the USGS website), and an article by Shawn Giblin “Water Quality Shapes the Health of the River.” The data show a higher prevalence of invasive plant species, but also a positive trend for native wild celery and rice. It also shows positive trends for panfish and negative trends for trout possibly due to their preference for clear or murky water (the water quality is trending clearer). Heath emphasized the young-of-the-year walleye and sauger report as a concern since there have been fewer than average for a ten-year-period due to unknown reasons since several factors are at play.</p> <p>The committee generally found the public opinion polls to be a positive step so long as they are not the main factor of decision making for necessary rule changes when answers contradicted the trends indicated in the LTRM monitoring data.</p> <p>D. Update on public right to step across railroad right of way: this issue is ongoing- community members may not legally cross railroad tracks in the areas of concern.</p>	
ACTION	Draft a letter of member concerns and support of the USFWS on the stated issue	
PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE		DEADLINE
Reed Kabelowsky		no definitive time table required

III. MEMBERS MATTERS

DISCUSSION	<p>Following a general concern for higher bag limits of 75 or more fish, Hugh Hatch recommended the bag limit rather than length of fish be lowered to 25 total fish of three species in question.</p> <p>Kari has new brochures for the Conservation Congress called “Your Voice.” Please notify her of how many you would like to distribute.</p> <p>Don’t forget to read the Spring Conservation Chronicle.</p> <p>Wes Domine commented that he would like to see more items on the agenda during the next meeting due to the multiple concerns and ideas delegates brought up during this meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question: Due to the ongoing concern that minnow scooping is not allowed on the Mississippi, were the rumors true that the same action is legal on the great lakes? Kari forwarded these rules cited by Thomas Hansen from the DNR: • Per s. NR 20.20 (73)(h)1., WI Adm. Code – There is no open season for minnows on Lake Superior, its bays and tributaries. • Per s. NR 20.20(73)(h)2., 3., and 4., Wi Adm. Code, - On Lake Michigan and its bays and tributaries up to the first dam, the only species of minnow that can be harvested is suckers, and such suckers cannot be transported “live” unless in compliance with s. NR 19.05(3), WI Adm. Code. Season is closed on all other species of minnows.
ACTION	

IV. ADJOURNMENT

MEETING ADJOURNED	12:00 pm with tour and lunch to follow
SUBMITTED BY	Barbara Dahlgren/ aka Maniotis
DATE	08/25/2018